

to but darker than Cinnamon-Brown (33) and the latter closer to Raw Umber (23). Crest colour as the most heavily saturated specimen of *A. m. kombok*, being Spectrum Orange (17). Underparts: conspicuously more orange-brown than all above specimens of *A. m. kombok*, and particularly so on the chin, throat and the darker area of the chest and upper breast. Throat closest to Raw Umber (123) and the darker chest/breast area, sides of abdomen and the flanks closest to Cinnamon Brown (33) but washed orange; these darker areas contrasting slightly with the paler Cinnamon (123A) remainder of the underparts. Underwing coverts pale rich ginger (as Clay Color 123B, but much more orange) and trailing edge of the primaries a more dilute tone of this colour.

Paratypes. Adult male specimens BBM-NG 103327, 103329 and PNGM B937/25303 are very similar to the holotype specimen but BBM-NG 103329 has a deeper orange crest. Specimen BBM-NG 103328 is even more orange, almost red-brown above, and its crest is as 103320. All three immature males and the female Mt. Bosavi birds (Table 1) are plumaged as the adult males but (lacking a crest) have the forecrown and crown slightly darker and more richly suffused orange than the rest of the upperparts and contrast with them slightly.

Distribution and habitat. Presently known only from the forest of the type locality and at altitudes of *c.* 1400 and 1525 m a.s.l. While this new subspecies is presently known only from Mt. Bosavi the use of this geographical feature as a trinomial is not desirable or appropriate as similar birds may prove to be found elsewhere. The southern end of the Muller Range is a possibility, though an unlikely one.

Comments. *A. m. lecrovae* is distinctly different in overall appearance to *A. m. kombok* in being darker and significantly more brown-orange. Of the above-described *A. m. kombok* series only female-plumaged (crestless) specimen AMNH 705730 from Mt. Hagen of uncertain sex approaches the coloration of the Mt. Bosavi *A. m. lecrovae* series, being similar in colour and tone above except for the upper tail which is not as dark or orange. Its crown is similar to but perhaps not quite as dark and orange as in female-plumaged *A. m. lecrovae*. Its underparts are generally similar to *A. m. lecrovae* but the throat is paler and the remainder, including the underwing, not as dark or as orange-suffused as the latter subspecies. Thus adult male, immature male and female *A. m. lecrovae* are conspicuously more orange-suffused and darker in their plumage than *A. m. kombok*. T. Pratt (*in litt.*) handled one mist-netted live adult male Macgregor's Bowerbird on Mt. Bosavi and wrote of it at the time "had a very short crest—molting?", which is noteworthy in view of his considerable experience with the species elsewhere.

We have found no description of the form of bower built by male Macgregor's Bowerbirds on Mt. Bosavi, but as Bell (1975) and T. Pratt (*in litt.*) made no remark in this regard and as bowers do not appear to differ in general appearance between the other populations of the species, we suspect Mt. Bosavi bowers are not significantly different in general appearance. We would not hesitate to elevate the Bosavi birds to full species status, however, should they prove to build a consistently different bower to those of other populations of the species, given the

species-specific nature of bowerbirds' bowers (Diamond 1982, Borgia 1986).

Etymology. It is with great pleasure that we name this distinctive orange form of Macgregor's Bowerbird for our colleague and friend Mary LeCroy of the Department of Ornithology, American Museum of Natural History, New York. This is by way of small acknowledgement of her significant contributions to the ornithology of New Guinea and elsewhere, and much generous help long given to numerous ornithologists working on bowerbirds and other birds of New Guinea, and elsewhere.

In addition to raising the possibility that his single specimen of Macgregor's Bowerbird from Mt. Bosavi represented a new subspecies (see above), H. L. Bell (1975) noted that he took samples of three small passerine species from there large enough to indicate to him that, "if not distinct sub-species, they are definitely of different size to 'typical' birds on the main range". Moreover, Schodde & Weatherly (1983) described a new species of fairy-wren *Malurus campbelli*, subsequently considered a distinctive subspecies of *M. grayi* by LeCroy & Diamond (1995), discovered at c. 700–800 m a.s.l. on Mt. Bosavi. These observations, taken together with the distinctive morphology of *Amblyornis macgregoriae lecrovae* on Mt. Bosavi, suggest the possibility of other undescribed avian taxa awaiting discovery on that mountain.

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Amazona oratrix hondurensis: a new subspecies of parrot from the Sula Valley of northern Honduras

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Although Monroe & Howell (1966) suggested that there was a new subspecies of yellow-crowned parrot (i.e. a member of the *Amazona ochrocephala* complex; see *General remarks*) in the Sula Valley of Honduras, they had insufficient data to formally describe it at that time. Following our field and museum work, the complex situation in northern Honduras has been clarified. Most of the details of this were described by Lousada & Howell (1996) and, despite few museum specimens, we believe there is now ample evidence to describe the distinctive dimorphic Sula Valley birds as a new subspecies:

***Amazona oratrix hondurensis*, subsp. nov.**

Holotype. Museum of Comparative Zoology, No. 136569; female. Honduras: Depto. Cortes; c. 12 miles NE of La Lima, along the Toloa canal at Urraco; 10 March 1928; collected by E. Bangs, original field number J. L. Peters 5505.

Diagnosis (adults). Although clearly a member of the *Amazona ochrocephala* complex, *hondurensis* differs from *belizensis* and "guatemalensis" (an undescribed dimorphic form of *belizensis*; Lousada & Howell 1996) in having yellow head coloration limited to the forehead and crown only, and in frequently having a yellow nape patch. Differs from *caribaea* in its overall paler bill and more extensive yellow on the forehead and crown. This latter is usually in a rounded or triangular shape versus a narrower band in *caribaea*. *Caribaea* has dark cere/bristle coloration, while *hondurensis* is often far paler due to the

presence of at least some blond bristles and paler underlying skin. Differs from *parvipes* in its consistently pale bill and extensive yellow forehead and crown (see Figure 2c, page 47, Lousada & Howell 1996). The yellow-crowned morph of *hondurensis* is similar to *panamensis* from which it differs in its larger size and paler bill (*panamensis* usually has darker coloration on the bill).

Measurements (mm) of holotype. Wing (chord) 212, tail 100, culmen (from nostril) 30, length of middle toe (without nail) 30.

Distribution. Originally ranged throughout the Sula Valley of northern Honduras and west and east along the Caribbean coastal lowlands. It is now apparently restricted to a small area west of Tela and south of Punta Sal in the lower Sula Valley.

Etymology. We name this subspecies *hondurensis* recognising that it is the only member of the *A. ochrocephala* complex endemic to mainland Honduras.

Specimens examined. Honduras: Chasniguas (CMNH 1 male); Urraco (MCZ 1 female); Laguna Toloa (ANSP 1 male); 3 mi E La Lima (LSUMZ 1 female).

Captive specimens examined. Generally, captive birds are not included as specimens examined in a taxonomic description. In this case, however, we feel that they can add valuable data due to the limited series of museum skins, the undesirability of collecting more specimens from a very small remnant population, and the fact that some collection data are available for the birds noted below. The problem with captive birds is that in most cases the exact or even general location of collection from the wild is unknown, especially in the case of parrots in the international trade. Nevertheless, our experience in this region indicates that internal trade, while very common, generally reflects birds available locally from the wild. This is particularly true in the case of poorer *campesinos* (country people). Amongst these households it is very rare to find pet birds that are any significant distance away from their natural ranges.

In all, 17 wild-caught captive birds (4 males, 7 females, 6 unknown) have been studied. Six of these were seen in Honduras, within or bordering the present range of *hondurensis*. The remaining nine birds were seen in the United States. Fortunately, the importer is known for these birds and he reported collecting them from "the Puerto Cortes area around 1980" (J. McDonald pers. comm.), an area bordering the bird's present range but well within the range at that time.

Field observations. As published previously (Lousada & Howell 1996), Lousada and Morales located a flock of approximately 75 *hondurensis* in the wild. Although field observations are necessarily subjective, they took photographs which, while not of high quality, do show the key features of yellow crowns and pale bills.

Other specimens of the complex examined. Although many other specimens of this complex have been examined previously, the following specimens were all brought together to be examined side by side specifically for this paper.

oratrix. Mexico: Rio Cruz, Tampa (MCZ 1 female); Pasa Nueva, Veracruz (MCZ 1 male, 1 female); Petapa, Tehuantepec (MCZ 1 male).

belizensis. Belize: Gallon Jug, Orange Walk Dist. (LSUMZ 1 male); Hill Bank, Orange Walk Dist. (LSUMZ 1 female); near Ycacos Lagoon (MCZ 1 male); All Pines (CMNH 1 male).

caribaea. Honduras: Isla Barbareta (CMNH 2 males, 1 female); Isla Guanaja (CMNH 1 male).

parvipes. Nicaragua: 25 mi. SE Leicus Creek (UCLA 1 male); Leicus Creek (UCLA 3 females); 23 km SSW Waspam (UCLA 1 male, 1 female); 15 km SSW Waspam (UCLA 1 male, 1 female); 56 mi NW Puerto Cabeza (UCLA 1 female).

auropalliata. Mexico: 6 mi. NE Tonalá, Chiapas (LSUMZ 1 female); Guatemala: 10 mi. SW Taxisco, Santa Rosa (LSUMZ 2 females); Finca el Ciprés (MCZ 1 female); "Guatemala" (ANSP 2 unsexed); Honduras. San Lorenzo (MCZ 1 female); 7 mi. NE Choluteca (LSUMZ 1 male); Nicaragua: Coseguina (ANSP 1 female); "Nicaragua" (MCZ 1 male); Costa Rica: Lenorio (MCZ 1 male, 2 females); "Costa Rica" (MCZ 1 male, 1 female).

panamensis. Panama: Divala (MCZ 1 male); Parita (CMNH 1 male); unspecified location (MCZ 1 unsexed).

Individual variation

Individual variation is a marked feature of this population, as it is of some other *Amazona* taxa. In what follows, capitalized colour descriptions and numbers follow Smithe (1975, 1981), although almost none of them matches exactly. Apart from some key areas of colour on the head, overall colours are fairly typical for the complex. Individual variation of the subspecies as a whole has been published previously (Lousada & Howell 1996). The following are notes primarily on the museum specimens. The forehead and crown of the holotype have a pale yellow patch, nearest Sulfur Yellow (157), 40 mm in length from the cere and 20 mm wide at its broadest point with a total area of 492 mm². The crown coloration of the other three specimens is similar but is more extensive (532, 796 and 916 mm² in ANSP 90568, LSUMZ 29066 and CMNH 20448 respectively) and in a more rounded shape. (ANSP 90568 is missing many crown feathers and originally may well have had more yellow than measured). ANSP 90568 and LSUMZ 29066 lack yellow nape patches and may be immatures, or more mature individuals of the yellow-crowned morph. The holotype has a spotty yellow nape patch on the nape and hindneck which is darker yellow than the crown, closest to Spectrum Yellow (55). CMNH 20448 has a more sizeable yellow nape patch than the holotype; due to yellow flecks on the occiput this almost joins the crown patch. (One of the captive specimens shows this to an even more exaggerated extent.) Dusky margins on the feathers vary from bird to bird (as in other subspecies of the complex), being especially conspicuous in LSUMZ 29066. Immatures often have more dusky margins than older birds but this is not consistent enough to be a reliable age indicator. Although the thighs on all four specimens are green, there are some yellow flecks at the base of the thighs of CMNH 20448. The amount of red and yellow on the bend of the wing also varies among the specimens. There is none obvious on the bend of the wing of ANSP 90568 (another possible sign